

DRAFT Advisory Council to the Division of Autism Services
Minutes, September 16, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jennifer Carroll, Maggie Casciato, Jan Galloway, Chera Gerstein, Ann Gionet, David Daniel Klipper, Sara Reed, Nikki Richer, Lois Rosenwald, Jonathan Ross, Tricia Winter and Larry Wood

MEMBERS ABSENT: Catherine Abercrombie, Judy Dowd, Ruth Eren, Mary Franco, Elaine Flynn, Jacqueline Kelleher, Sara Lourie, James Loomis, Stan Soby, Angela Spino and Joseph Stobierski

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS: Kathy Reddington, Lori Conchado

There were no members of the public present. Minutes for the May 20, 2009 meeting were approved with changes noting that upon second request to the Connecticut Post, an Op-Ed letter from the Advisory Council was published.

Lois Rosenwald shared the resume of Nancy Bagatell of Quinnipiac University as a possible new member to the council. A motion to accept Ms. Bagatell was made by Jonathan Ross and seconded. An invitation to join the committee will be sent to Ms. Bagatell.

Kathy Reddington said that she would ask Commissioner O'Meara to send a letter to the Department of Social Services/Bureau of Rehabilitation Services to request a replacement for the vacancy made through the retirement of Laura DeGalbo.

Kathy Reddington presented an overview of the status of the pilot program since the council's last meeting. The state budget has been approved and the Autism Division will receive approximately \$1.5 million, the same funding as in the last budget. Kathy clarified that the program does not have a set number of "slots." The program is using the Level of Need (LON) Assessment and the Scales of Independent Behavior (SIB-R) to determine the amount allocated to each individual budget, which in turn determines how many individuals receive services. Kathy reported that our case manager's noted families are satisfied with services and outcomes and that a few consumers are working on decreasing services as they transition into their own activities. There are currently 22 individuals who have been approved to receive services and are awaiting openings.

The Office of Policy Management (OPM) has approved carry-over funding to continue the work of the consultant for the development of an Autism Waiver. It is proposed that waiver will include approximately 200 consumers already receiving services from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and Department of Child and Families (DCF). DDS and DMHAS have been meeting to determine operational definitions. . The current proposal included three separate waivers to cover low, medium and high levels of care. DDS Information Technology is developing a web-based tools to be used by multiple agencies for several functions required by the waiver. Kathy stressed that this is a revenue

enhancement waiver, not an expansion and will have a set number of slots available. The waiver will be statewide and will not have set geographical areas. Pilot Program participants will need to be on Medicaid to participate in the waiver and continue receiving services.

The Autism Division is working on finalizing a second Training DVD and rethinking which services will be continued to best serve our consumers. Problems have arisen regarding the use of activity fees, community mentors and how they help consumers to become more independent and involved in their community.

The division has a few individuals with psycho-sexual issues, who have met with a consultant to determine their needs. Lois Rosenwald receives calls daily at ASRC regarding individuals released from the Criminal Justice System and would like the Data Committee to explore this issue. Lois said we need to look at the forensics of those with Asperger's and need to educate the community, police, court officials and attorney's on this issue. Nikki Richer stated that DMHAS staff has done ride-alongs with police and will share info she has via e-mail.

Sara Reed mentioned the Executive Committee drafted a letter of recommendations to the Interagency Plan on Autism in response to their survey. Jackie Kelleher and Sara Lourie were instrumental in developing and submitting the response. Sara also advised committee members that the Bureau Of Rehabilitation Services has received stimulus money and that we need to work with them to let them know what our needs are.

Lois Rosenwald invited members to attend a joint training session with ASCONN and ASRC in October, which will target Para-professionals and families. Lois also gave a brief overview of the training ASRC provided to Pilot participants in Self-Advocacy, Sexuality, Goal Setting and Disclosure. The sessions were successful for both consumers and their mentors.

Ann Gionet handed out a Department of Public Health (DPH) flyer requesting responses to a survey of "Health Care for You & Your Family. The survey can be taken on-line at: <http://www.ct.gov/dph>

David Daniel suggested that we set up our 2010 meeting schedule for the third Wednesday of each month starting in January. He also requested that members make notification of their inability to attend meetings.

Members of each committee met individually to review business and prepare to present at the next scheduled meeting on November 18, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30.